
Board Update on Redistricting & Reassignment

Dr. Danielle Jones, Superintendent

June 24, 2024



OCS Redistricting Efforts

Timeline

Fall 2022

- Efland-Cheeks (ECGES) over capacity
- Multiple elementary schools under capacity
- Spot reassignments

Summer, Fall 2023

- ECGES: Mobile classrooms added for construction/swing space

Spring 2024

- Continued growth in Mebane
- **ECGES, NHES, and RPES** at or over *OCS Adjusted Capacity*, trending upward
- Mobile classrooms temporarily alleviate overcrowding
- High-priority needs persist
- **2024 Bond Referendum**



Capacity, Enrollment, and Utilization

Classroom Spaces, and How They Meet Students' Needs

- Woolpert
 - Facility Assessment and Master Planning
 - Does **not** account for building utilization
- OREd
 - Review enrollment projections
- Orange County Schools
 - Needed to account for capacity discrepancies
 - Woolpert - OCS Adjusted Capacities
 - Establishing process to understand building utilization



Orange County Schools Out-of-Capacity Table

1. 2023-24 November membership data provided by OCS

2. Capacities provided by Woolpert (11/2023)

3. Pre-K enrollment not included.

Elementary Schools (K-5)

	Capacities	Enrollment	Forecasted Month-1 ADM									
	2023-24	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
Central Elementary	408	291	285	285	290	293	305	316	334	342	347	354
Efland Cheeks Elementary	500	526	534	528	549	563	564	571	561	558	569	570
Grady Brown Elementary	412	406	402	414	418	419	419	417	416	412	414	414
Hillsborough Elementary	556	437	437	437	437	437	437	437	437	437	437	437
New Hope Elementary	542	527	514	510	522	528	528	544	549	551	558	558
Pathways Elementary	479	312	315	307	305	308	301	292	284	286	281	284
River Park Elementary	556	556	554	558	552	560	563	579	584	587	595	595
Totals	3453	3055	3042	3039	3074	3108	3117	3157	3164	3173	3200	3211

Middle Schools (6-8)

A L Stanback Middle	877	633	639	633	655	644	662	663	670	676	696	698
Gravelly Hill Middle	695	411	406	463	475	508	525	562	578	593	616	627
Orange Middle	824	535	530	547	553	541	544	540	542	536	534	538
Totals	2396	1579	1575	1643	1684	1694	1731	1765	1790	1806	1845	1863

High Schools (9-12)

Cedar Ridge High	1328	1117	1138	1172	1143	1157	1174	1173	1220	1250	1266	1312
Orange High	1310	1222	1239	1180	1191	1253	1265	1295	1334	1365	1377	1425
Partnership Academy	40	43	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
Totals	2678	2382	2419	2394	2376	2452	2481	2510	2596	2657	2684	2779

System Total

8527	7016	7035	7076	7133	7253	7328	7432	7550	7636	7730	7854
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Utilization Legend

< 95%

95% - 100%

100% - 105%

> 105%



Current Elementary Schools Capacity

Three Schools At or Over Capacity

Orange County Schools Out-of-Capacity Table

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2. Capacities provided by Woolpert (11/2023)
3. Pre-K enrollment not included.

Elementary Schools (K-5)	Capacities	Enrollment	Forecasted Month-1 ADM									
	2023-24	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
Central Elementary	408	291	285	285	290	293	305	316	334	342	347	354
Efland Cheeks Elementary	500	526	534	528	549	563	564	571	561	558	569	570
Grady Brown Elementary	412	406	402	414	418	419	419	417	416	412	414	414
Hillsborough Elementary	556	437	437	437	437	437	437	437	437	437	437	437
New Hope Elementary	542	527	514	510	522	528	528	544	549	551	558	558
Pathways Elementary	479	312	315	307	305	308	301	292	284	286	281	284
River Park Elementary	556	556	554	558	552	560	563	579	584	587	595	595
Totals	3453	3055	3042	3039	3074	3108	3117	3157	3164	3173	3200	3211

- Legend:**
- Over 105% capacity
 - 100-105% capacity



Current Elementary Schools Capacity

What Is Measured, What Is Missing?

- Woolpert
- OCS “Adjusted Capacity”

Elementary Schools (K-5)

Central Elementary
Efland Cheeks Elementary
Grady Brown Elementary
Hillsborough Elementary
New Hope Elementary
Pathways Elementary
River Park Elementary

Totals

Woolpert

Capacities	Enrollment
2023-24	2023-24
408	291
500	526
412	406
556	437
542	527
479	312
556	556
3453	3055

OCS Adjusted Capacity

Adjusted Capacity
2023-24
372
464
446
—
488
429
538

What Is OCS “Adjusted Capacity?”

- ❑ Pre-K, Art, Music, EC Separate Setting not counted in utilization
- ❑ Issue: Inaccurate figures identified through site-based evaluation



Elementary School Utilization

Assessing How Every Space Meets Schools' Needs

- Met with every principal, surveyed every space on campus
- Accounted for every core classroom/homeroom and legislative class size limits:
 - **Include** EC Separate Setting
 - **Exclude** Pre-K, Electives/Specials
- Current SY2024 and projected SY2025 enrollments, see next slide



Elementary School Utilization

	Building Utilization of Classrooms							Classrooms								
	Classrooms						Utilization	2023-24 Enrollment	Mobile Classrooms	Classrooms						
	K	1	2 & 3	4 & 5	Self Contained	Music Room				Art Room	Designated Room	AG Room	Foreign Lang.	Vacant	Pre K	
Elementary Schools	18	16	17	27	10											
Dual Language		24	24	24												
Central Elementary	2	3	6	5	1	331	291	0	1	1	2	1	1		0	
Efland Cheeks Elementary	5	5	10	8	0	556	522	5	1	1	0	1	0		2	
Grady Brown Elementary	4	4	7	6	2	437	406	0	1	1	1	1	1		0	
Hillsborough Elementary	4	4	8	6	2	454	434	0	1	1	1	1	1		0	
New Hope Elementary	5	3	5	6	2	621	520	0	1	1	1	1			1	
New Hope Dual Language		2	4	3												
Pathways Elementary	3	3	5	6	2	369	312	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	4	
River Park Elementary	4	5	10	9	1	575	555	1	1	1	1	2	2		0	
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOTALS	27	29	55	49	10	3,343	3040	6								
Total Classroom Count			170													



Four Pillars of Student Assignment

Setting yearly attendance zones: Policy 4150

- Student Achievement
 - Reading EOG Scores (46% to 62%, 16-point range)
 - Balance across schools
- Stability
 - Minimizing moves
 - Keeping siblings together
- Proximity
 - Reasonable distance
 - Neighborhood continuity
- Operational Efficiency
 - Factors in capacity; reducing mobiles
 - Minimize service duplication
 - Optimize transportation (bus service)

The Work Continues

- ❑ **Diversity:** Promoting a balance of socioeconomic diversity across all elementary and secondary schools.
- ❑ **Community:** Keeping families, neighborhoods, and communities intact at the school level.
- ❑ **These two goals – both worth pursuing – exist in tension.**
- ❑ **There is more work to be done.**



Advisory Council Feedback

For Board and District Leadership

Plus-Positives

- ❑ **Inclusiveness:** Students affected most were represented. Translation and interpretation. Family members, staff meeting together.
- ❑ **Transparency:** Sharing feedback and action steps. Honest appraisal of issues, and how each pillar affects the present and future.
- ❑ **Visual presentations:** Clear representation of a wide range of data.
- ❑ **Engagement with principals:** Advisory council members were asked to lead and represent their school community.

Delta-Considerations

- ❑ **Map worksheets:** The sooner the better, to help participants interact with pillars (4150) and understand clear Board priorities.
- ❑ **Continuity:** Everyone seeks assurances that programs and relationships will be honored.
- ❑ **Equitable allocation:** Schools know what students need. The process should address gaps (resources, support) adequately.
- ❑ **Time:** Ensure that we give enough time to navigate barriers of language, culture, and taking in large amounts of new information.



Recommendations

Important next steps

- **Stop Redistricting for 2025-2026**
 - Review Redistricting annually, up to twice per year
- **Continue studying building utilization**
 - Determine how all spaces are used in light of statute, DPI requirements
- **Consider shifting select schools from Closed to Open**
 - Reopen transfers on hold for Redistricting
 - Central Elementary, Pathways Elementary
- **Focus on 2024 Bond Referendum**
 - Reduce average age and increase quality of OCS facilities
 - Address utilization, future demographic growth, and facility conditions
 - Shift focus toward permanent solutions for serving every student
 - **Recognize large number of unknowns**





Discussion





Orange County Schools

NORTH CAROLINA

ENGAGE. CHALLENGE. **INSPIRE.**